



Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America **Exhibition Script**

Turf Pylon

Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America

Our love of sports begins in our hometowns. We play on ball fields and sandlots, on courts and on ice, in parks and playgrounds, even in the street. From pick-up games to organized leagues, millions of Americans of all ages play sports. Win or lose, we yearn to compete and play another day.

If we're not playing sports, we're watching them. We sit in the stands and root for the local high school team, or gather on the sidelines and cheer on our sons and daughters as they take their first swing or score their first goal.

Hometown sports are more than just games — they shape our lives and unite us and celebrate who we are as Americans.

Turf

Every sport has its place.

A field of grass becomes a field of dreams.

“Sports gives your life structure, discipline, and a genuine, sincere, pure fulfillment that few other areas of endeavor provide.”

– Bob Cousy, basketball star

Top images:

Golf ball, baseball, baseball glove, lacrosse stick, historic football helmet

Middle images:

Youth T-ball -- Base running with coach; Corinth Giants, Corinth, TX
Rob Nerpel / DM Images

Adult co-ed soccer, Truckee, California.

Tom Falconer

Women's field hockey, about 1919

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, National Photo Company
Collection, LC-F8-5183

High school football game, Palatka at Mendenez

Lindsay Wiles Gramana



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MUSEUM on Main Street

Bottom image:

Football field

Getty Images / Terry J Alcorn

Water Pylon

Let's Play!

Thanks to our never-ending appetite for competition and games, Americans now have a wider selection of sports to play and watch than ever before. Football, baseball, and basketball — America's traditional hometown sports — share space on our calendars with soccer, hockey, tennis, running, wrestling, skiing, snowboarding, skateboarding, surfing, sailing, and many other sports. What has occurred in our hometowns is nothing less than a sports revolution.

Credit Panel

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Curated by Robert Santelli

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Water

Every sport has a place.

For swimming, surfing, and kayaking, you have to take the plunge.

"The rewards are going to come, but my happiness is just loving the sport and having fun performing."

-- Jackie Joyner Kersee, Olympic champion

Top images:

Surf board, kayak paddle, fishing reel, swim goggles

Middle images:

Surfer on a wave

brianbielmann.com

Bates College Rowing Team

Steve Johnson / MAAC



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Water polo team, Claremont, CA,
Steven Felschundneff / *Claremont Courier*

Swimmer
Getty Images / Dilip Vishwanat

Bottom image:
Water
Ian Britton FreeFoto.com

Road Pylon

Our American Spirit

Sports play a big part in the lives of most Americans. Whether we play sports or watch them, they leave an indelible mark on us all. The essential qualities of sports — competition, fair play, and the zeal to win — embody the American spirit.

Road

Every sport has its place.
A road invites a race.

"... it's extra effort that separates a winner from second place ... desire, determination, discipline, and self-sacrifice. . . . Put these all together, and even if you don't win, how can you lose?"
— Jesse Owens, Olympic champion

Top Images

Bike wheel, skateboard, running shoes, bike helmet, jockey helmet (© iStockphoto / Gina Guarnieri)

Middle Images:

Olympic champion Jesse Owens
The Ohio State University Archives

Skateboarder Keith Capizzi at Cocoa Beach State Park.
Kathleen Hinkel for Florida Today, 2005

Rodeo contestant,
Courtesy National High School Rodeo Association/ David Jennings Media Group
www.nhsra.org

Street hockey
© Val Thoermer / Dreamstime.com



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MUSEUM on Main Street

Bottom Image:

Track surface

iStockphoto.com / Kevin Jeon

Court Pylon

The Home Team

No part of American culture so colorfully and passionately celebrates American life as does sports.

And nowhere do we more intimately connect to sports than in our hometowns. Football and basketball games generate hometown passion and loyalty. Little League games teach the fundamentals of fair play. Adult softball and bowling leagues keep us connected to childhood passions. Dedicated fans nurture lifelong relationships with beloved teams.

“Court

Every sport has its place.

Give an athlete a place to stand — wooden floor, canvas, or mat.

“We’re proud of those young men . . . They’re giving their best, building something for the little ones down in junior high and elementary school.”

– Mary Dvorak, fan, Penelope, Texas

Top Images:

Tennis ball, boxing glove, karate belt, basketball, volleyball

Middle Images:

Gymnastics coach and student – South Dakota Girls Gymnastics
Craig Wollman

Girls’ volleyball players

Dennis Webb azdewphoto.com

High school wrestling match

Vinny Carchietta / MCV Photography

Girls’ basketball game between Riverdale Baptist and Stonewall Jackson

Getty Images / *Washington Post*

Bottom Image:

Basketball court, Roseville, IL,

Kent Henderson, Roseville, IL / www.kenthenderson.com



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MUSEUM on Main Street

Snow/Ice Pylon

Spanning Generations

Our connection to sports spans generations. It all begins in our hometowns at an early age. We put balls in the hands of infants and register our sons and daughters for youth leagues. Many young athletes will go on to play high school and even college sports.

As older adults, we might move to the grandstand, but our desire to remain fit and competitive keeps us engaged in sports beyond the role of spectator.

Snow / Ice

Every sport has its place.

A frozen surface speeds us along.

“I don't really remember a time younger than 5 years old that I didn't have skates on . . . and a big smile on my face, excited to go on the ice.”

– Michelle Kwan, Olympic medalist

Top Image:

Skis and ski boots, curling stone (Getty Images / Ryan McVay), hockey skate, snowboard goggles

Middle Images:

Neighborhood hockey players

Minnesota Historical Society: Al Heitman

Figure skater Caroline Zhang,

Associated Press photo by Ahn Young-joon

Ski racer

David Copley

Snowboarder at Gould Academy,

Photo courtesy of Gould Academy in Bethel, Maine

Bottom Image:

Snow

© iStockphoto / Flavio Vallenari



Section 2

More Than a Game

Sports are an American obsession. We play sports to stay in shape, to quench our thirst to compete, and to have fun. We watch sports and connect to our favorite teams. When they win, we win. When they lose, we share in their defeat.

Wherever we turn, signs of sports are not far away. Sports influence the way we talk, what we buy, the food we eat, the movies we watch, and the books we read. Baseball caps and team jerseys, once worn only by ballplayers and young boys, are now an essential part of pop fashion. And whether they're worn with the brims forward or backward, they are found on the heads of millions of Americans.

American culture is saturated with sports.

WHEATIES

Wheaties cereal started calling itself "Breakfast of Champions" in 1933. The first athlete featured on a Wheaties box was baseball star Lou Gehrig in 1934. Since then, Wheaties has showcased athletes from nearly every sport. If your picture is on a Wheaties box, that's proof that you're a sports icon.

Objects:

Wheaties Box with Brandi Chastain

Wheaties "Breakfast of Champions" cereal bowl

AIR JORDAN

Michael Jordan joined the Chicago Bulls in 1984, and a year later, Nike launched Air Jordan shoes. With sales propelled by Jordan's talents and popularity, the shoes remain one of Nike's most popular lines.

Object

Nike Air Jordan shoes

BASEBALL CARDS

The first baseball cards were tucked into cigarette packages. In the early 1900s, candy and gum manufacturers adopted the practice. Topps began including baseball cards with its bubblegum in 1952. But by the 1980s, it was all about the cards! Collectors could buy cards without the gum.

Objects:

Assortment of baseball cards

DIGITAL SPORTS



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Famous athletes lend their names and faces to a wide variety of video and computer games. One of the most famous video game franchises is Madden NFL, named for legendary coach and broadcaster John Madden. A new version of the Madden game is released each year, with famous players on its cover.

Objects:

John Madden NFL 2009 for Playstation 2

SOCCER BARBIE

Mia Hamm, a star of women's soccer, endorsed Mattel's Soccer Barbie. "Barbie and Mattel have realized girls can and want to be so much more," Hamm said in an interview. "They do Soccer Barbie, they do WNBA Basketball Barbie, Figure Skating Barbie . . . It's a positive message."

Objects:

Mia Hamm Soccer Barbie

SPORTS GAMES

From early electric football games, like the Coleco Head to Head Football console, to older board games, like the Bas-Ket basketball board game and Baseball Scrabble, sports-themed home activities are always a hit.

Objects:

Bas-Ket board game
Coleco Head-to-Head football

Magazines:

Golf Digest
Sports Illustrated
ESPN Magazine
Runners World
Field and Stream
Ski Magazine
Climbing

Athlete Endorsements:

Got Milk? Advertisement – Michelle Kwan
America's Milk Processors, National Got Milk? Campaign

Cole of California swimsuits -- Esther Williams
Cole of California, courtesy of InMocean Group, LLC

Yoo-hoo Drink - Yogi Berra
Ad courtesy of Dr. Pepper / Seven Up Inc. © 2012



Side 2

Sports, You Say?

If you can't see evidence of America's obsession with sports, you can certainly hear it. Over the years many popular phrases from sports have entered the American lexicon. Whether it's "saved by the bell" (boxing), "in the home stretch" (horse racing), "striking out" (baseball), or "slam dunk" (basketball), sports terms color our conversations.

Do you know the sports that inspired these popular phrases? Do you know when we began using them? Which ones do you use most often?

Interactive word bubbles:

"throw in the towel"
Boxing, about 1860

"drop the ball"
Baseball, 1950s

"step up to the plate"
Baseball, date unclear

"par for the course"
Golf, 1947

"the ball is in your court"
Tennis, date unknown

"run interference"
Football, about ??

"win by a nose"
Horse racing, date unclear

Additional sports sayings:

"Monday morning quarterback"

"jockey for position"

"cover all the bases"

"down for the count"



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“hit below the belt”

“out of left field”

“play hardball”

“carry the ball”

Side 3

Inspired by the Game

Sports have penetrated nearly all levels of American culture, including art and literature. The dynamism of sports — the color and excitement of a game and the grace and beauty of an athlete’s performance — often makes for great art. The complex relationship between sports and American culture inspires authors and artists to explore how sports reveal our character and humanity and to chronicle the drama that occurs with the triumph of victory and the agony of defeat.

Images

Night Game – Yankee Stadium by Ralph Fasanella captures the vibrancy of the stadium and the diversity, bustle, and character of the Bronx neighborhood that surrounds it.

Courtesy of Fenimore Art Museum, New York State Historical Association

Paintings:

In 1937 Henry Billings painted five winter-sports murals for the post office in Lake Placid, New York — site of the 1932 Winter Olympics.

Image provided by a friend of the Smithsonian

Joseph Rugalo painted his *Mural of Sports* for New York’s Roosevelt High School in 1937 to salute athletes like Olympic runner Jesse Owens and tennis star Helen Wills Moody. Smithsonian American Art Museum, transfer from the Newark Museum

Inspired by a newspaper photograph of famed boxer Joe Louis, William H. Johnson’s painting symbolizes Louis’ high-profile blows against racism.

Joe Louis and Unidentified Boxer, ca. 1939–42

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of the Harmon Foundation

Object label: Sports reflect our national character, drawing the attention of artists and writers. John Falter’s “Family Baseball” cover for the September 2, 1950 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post* reveals the ties between sports and home. Rick Telander’s *Heaven Is a Playground* (1976) chronicles the goals, aspirations, challenges, and fears of young African American basketball players. In *Lombardi*, which ran on Broadway in 2010–11, playwright Eric Simonson explores the mind of iconic Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi.



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Objects:

Saturday Evening Post

Heaven is a Playground book

Lombardi Playbill

Excerpt:

“Then from five thousand throats and more there rose a lusty yell;

It rumbled through the valley, it rattled in the dell;

It pounded on the mountain and recoiled upon the flat,

For Casey, mighty Casey, was advancing to the bat.”

– from “Casey at the Bat,” by Ernest Lawrence Thayer, *San Francisco Examiner*, 1888

Side 4

Sports on Film

Hollywood has done much to celebrate the special sense of place in American sports. Classic films, such as *Hoosiers* (high school basketball in Indiana) and *Field of Dreams* (a special cornfield in Iowa brings back baseball glory), are now part of our national sports memory. There are real places and real people behind many of those sports stories. Check out the real-life inspiration behind some favorite sports films.

DVD Interactive

A League of Their Own (1992)

At the height of World War II, when many ballplayers were in the military, team owners looked for ways to keep minor league baseball going. In 1943, a professional league for female players emerged. The first teams formed in four Midwestern cities — Rockford, Illinois; South Bend, Indiana; and Kenosha and Racine, Wisconsin. The league reached its peak in 1948 when it fielded 10 teams and welcomed more than 900,000 fans.

Image

Dorothy “Dottie” Kamenshek played for the Rockford Peaches for ten seasons and served as an inspiration for Dottie Henson, a lead character in the film.

National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, Cooperstown, N.Y.

Miracle (2004)

When the United States men’s team defeated the Soviet Union at the 1980 Winter Olympics, it was more than a hockey victory. In the last minutes of the game, TV commentator Al Michaels called out, “Do you believe in miracles?” The “Miracle on Ice” was a source of national pride — a Cold War victory at a time when tensions were high.



Before the Olympics, no one thought the Americans had a chance. But the U.S. team excelled, making it to the medal round. The U.S. team won 4–3 over the Soviets and then beat Finland to take the gold. But the win over the Soviet Union is the one Americans will remember for generations.

Image

The 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team celebrates winning the gold medal after defeating Finland.

©Bettmann/CORBIS

Hoosiers (1986)

We love to cheer on the underdog!

Milan High School was tiny, but it became a basketball powerhouse. During the 1952–53 season, Milan surprised observers by reaching the Indiana state semi-finals. Great things were expected for the 1953–54 season. The team earned a 19–2 record in the regular season and made its way through the playoffs to the state title game. The final game was a nail-biter. Milan defeated Muncie Central 32–30 to win the 1954 state championship.

Image

The Milan High School basketball team celebrates its 1954 Indiana state championship.
Milan 1954 Museum

Seabiscuit (2003)

During the Great Depression, the racehorse Seabiscuit's success rallied the nation. Seabiscuit was small and somewhat lazy, but with a new trainer, his performance improved dramatically. In 1937, he won 11 of 15 races, but his chief rival War Admiral was voted American Horse of the Year. The rivalry reached its peak at the "Match of the Century" at Maryland's Pimlico Race Course in 1938. Seabiscuit won easily and went on to superstardom.

Image

Seabiscuit, with jockey George Woolf, races War Admiral in the "Match of the Century" at Pimlico, November 1938.

©Bettmann/CORBIS

The Rookie (2002)

Who doesn't dream of making the big leagues? Jim Morris tried his luck in professional baseball in 1983. But injuries kept him from progressing beyond the minor leagues. Settling in Big Lake, Texas, Morris became a high-school coach. He promised his team that if they won a championship, he would try for the big leagues once more. The team won, and Morris tried out for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. The team signed him, and he quickly rose through the farm



system. In 1999, Morris made his debut in the major leagues at the age of 35. But the old injuries reappeared, and he again retired from baseball.

Image

Jim Morris pitches for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

Associated Press Image

Friday Night Lights (2004)

The Permian High School football team in Odessa, Texas, had an incredible winning tradition. And life in Odessa revolved around the team. Fans worshipped the players. Coaches pushed the team and struggled with officials and boosters obsessed with winning. Players often saw football as their escape. Journalist H.G. Bissinger chronicled the team and its impact in his 1990 book *Friday Night Lights*. The book became the basis for a movie and a TV series.

Image

Permian High School's Ratliff Stadium

Robert Clark / Institute

Soul of the Game (1996)

Integrating Major League Baseball began in 1943 when scouts for the Brooklyn Dodgers began studying Negro League players. Jackie Robinson, Josh Gibson and Leroy "Satchel" Paige were prime candidates to be the first African American player. Robinson was selected in 1947 because he was believed best prepared to handle the stress of integration. Robinson and Paige went on to careers in the major leagues; Gibson died in 1947. All three were admitted to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Image

Satchel Paige entered the major leagues in 1948 with the Cleveland Indians. He later played in St. Louis and Kansas City.

Library of Congress, LOOK Magazine Collection

Remember the Titans (2000)

In 1971 Alexandria, Virginia, merged its three high schools (with their three football teams) into one: T.C. Williams. As athletes and coaches competed for positions on the new team, old rivalries and old racial animosities simmered. A new African American head coach, Herman Boone, worked with white assistant coach Bill Yoast to build a unified team. The result was overpowering. The T.C. Williams Titans finished the season 13–0 and won the 1971 state championship.

Image

1971 T.C. Williams Titans team photo

71 Original Titans



Section 3

Fields of Glory

We call them cathedrals — classic ballparks where baseball, the National Pastime, is played — and where the sight of the field, the sound of the crowd, and the smell of hot dogs and popcorn — are collectively embedded in our consciousness. And it’s not just the baseball diamond. We cherish most any field, ballpark, and court where athletic contests of every kind are performed.

Basketball players and fans recall with nostalgic delight the old high school gymnasium with its wooden bleachers and old scoreboard. In football, it’s the gridiron on a crisp autumn afternoon. Hockey has the ice rink, and runners the oval track. Golf has that special green. Even less conventional sports such as fishing, skiing, and surfing possess unique places that become forever etched in our memories.

Images

Chicago’s Wrigley Field, built in 1914, has preserved its historic character: distinctive ivy-covered outfield walls, a hand-turned scoreboard, and a traditional marquee. Wrigley is the center of a neighborhood. Fans gather on the rooftops of adjacent buildings to watch the action and spill out onto the streets after games. And the sidewalks in front of the stadium are made of bricks personalized with messages from fans.

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1945 Wrigley Field World Series game 6 ticket

Bricks with personalized messages from fans from sidewalks that surround Wrigley Field

Stereoscope Interactive Images

Take a Look

Use the stereoscope viewer to see ten great sports venues. Turn over the photo card to learn why these spots are so famous.

Allen Field House, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

Opened: March 1955

Capacity: 16,300

What makes it special? Raucous fans

Fan noise in this basketball arena can be as loud as a jet! The arena is named in honor F.C. "Phog" Allen, the Jayhawks' head coach for 39 years. A banner hanging from the rafters reads: "Beware of the Phog."

Jeff Jacobsen



Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia

Opened: 1933

Course length: 7,435 yards, 18 holes, par 72

What makes it special?

Home of the Masters Tournament, green jackets, and natural beauty

There's no bigger win in professional golf than the Masters. The tournament is an invitation-only event, and since 1949 the winner has received a coveted green jacket. Augusta National is one of the most beautiful courses in the country. For the first time, two prominent women were invited to join this previously all-male club in 2012.

Jim Ferguson | Sandlapper Creative

Fenway Park, Boston, Massachusetts

Built: 1912

Capacity: 37,065

What makes it special?

Small size, dedicated fans, and "The Green Monster"

Fenway is the oldest major league ballpark still in use. Since 1912, generations of Red Sox fans have come out to Fenway to cheer on their team. Scorekeepers at Fenway still use one of the last hand-operated scoreboards in baseball, and its most famous feature is the "Green Monster," the 37-foot-tall left-field wall.

Photo by Michael Ivins / Boston Red Sox

Olympic Center, Lake Placid, New York

Opened: 1932

Expanded: 1980

What makes it special?

Three rinks, two Olympics, and a Miracle on Ice

The Olympic Center hosted both the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympics. When it opened in 1932, it was the first indoor stadium used for a Winter Olympics and featured a speed-skating rink in front of the building. For the 1980 games, the arena was expanded to include two additional rinks. It was here that the U.S. hockey team defeated the Soviet team in a historic upset that led to a gold medal.

Aaron Hobson / ORDA

University of Notre Dame Stadium, South Bend, Indiana

Opened: 1930

Capacity: 80,795

What makes it special?



11 championships, Hail Mary passes and a “Touchdown Jesus”

This stadium is home to the Fighting Irish football team, but one of its best-known features isn’t even on the field. A mural called *The Word of Life* by artist Millard Sheets, installed on the façade of the campus library, is visible over the stadium’s north end zone. The mural depicts Jesus Christ with arms raised, like a football referee signaling a touchdown.

C. Matt Cashore / University of Notre Dame

The Banzai Pipeline, Pupukea, Island of Oahu, Hawai’i

What makes it special?

Huge, challenging, and dangerous waves

The Banzai Pipeline is one of the most famous surf spots in the world. Its location on Oahu’s North Shore, with shallow reefs offshore, creates perfect tube-shaped waves. Professional competitions, including the Billabong Pipeline Masters, are held here every winter, with the best athletes turning out and the victor revered as a champion of the sport. The waves at Pipeline are as dangerous as they are awe-inspiring. Many experienced surfers have lost their lives surfing Pipeline.

brianbielmann.com

Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, Exposition Park, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

Opened: June 1923

Capacity: 93,607

What makes it special?

Iconic architecture, two Olympiads, two Super Bowls and a World Series

The Memorial Coliseum has hosted two Olympiads, two Super Bowls, and one World Series — the only sports venue in the world with that distinction. It has been home to the University of Southern California football team since opening in 1923, and it played a critical role in bringing professional sports to Southern California. Nearly every major team in the region has played in the stadium, including the UCLA Bruins, the NFL’s Rams and Raiders, and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Kirby Lee / WireImage / Getty Images

Durham Athletic Park, Durham, North Carolina

Opened: 1926

Rebuilt: 1939, 2008

What makes it special? Tradition and a movie

The Durham Athletic Park is one of the most famous stadiums in Minor League Baseball. The Durham Bulls played there for almost 70 years (1926–1994). The 1988 film *Bull*



Durham boosted the Bulls’ popularity, drawing record numbers of spectators. Unfortunately, the park was too small to accommodate the crowds. The Bulls eventually moved to a larger stadium.

Durham Bulls Baseball Club

Hayward Field, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon

Built: 1919

Capacity: 10,500

Length: 400-meter track with eight 48-inch lanes; 85-meter straightaways; and 115-meter curves

What makes it special?

One of the nation’s premier track-only stadiums, located in “Tracktown, USA”

Hayward Field started in 1919 as a football stadium. But in the 1970s, Hayward Field emerged as a track-only stadium, playing host to national championships and four Olympic trials. Eugene is now considered “Tracktown, USA” — the spot where track and field athletes flock to train and compete, attracted by the area’s heritage, which includes the career of legendary runner Steve Prefontaine and the formation of Nike Corporation.

University Photograph Collection, University of Oregon Libraries

Rickwood Field, Birmingham, Alabama

Opened: 1910

What makes it special? History and civil rights

Rickwood Field, America’s oldest professional ballpark, was home to the (white) minor league Birmingham Barons from 1910 to 1987 and the (black) Birmingham Black Barons from about 1920 to 1963. In 1964, the ballpark was integrated, and fans of all races shared the stands for the first time. Enthusiastic fans and preservationists continue to work to preserve the site.

Michael Wade

“Story Stop”: Stories from Main Street interactive question

What makes your local ballpark or stadium a special place?

Side 2

Heart of Our Hometowns

In America’s hometowns from coast to coast there exist fields of play that mean something special to the community. In many places it’s the high school football field where each fall the pride and passion of small towns everywhere are on display in grand form.



In cities, it might be the basketball court in a park or schoolyard that sees action day and night. It might even be the sandlot, an empty space that was turned into a makeshift baseball diamond and has served young ballplayers ever since.

Americans play sports wherever they can, and over the years certain fields and courts take on added meaning in our memories.

"This is our house. This is our yard. This is our town. And we're one team, one town, one heartbeat."

– Bob Shipley, former head football coach, Burnet (Texas) High School, 2003

Images

Yukon High School vs. Edmond Santa Fe High School at Yukon, Oklahoma, 2010.

Photo by Bryan Terry, Copyright 2011, *The Oklahoman*

Basketball players in a neighborhood park, Brooklyn, New York, 1975.

Getty Images / *Sports Illustrated* / John D. Hanlon

Players in Minnesota's state high school hockey championships, 1964.

Minnesota Historical Society

Tickets on banner from: North Carolina State University and Lake Mills High School

Audio:

Why Do We Play?

What motivates us to play sports? Is it our families? Our heroes? The places we live?

Listen to these audio interviews with athletes who tell us why their sport is important to them.

Audio Interview 1: Kentucky Basketball

Honored Basketball Coach and Former Player, Donna Murphy from Newport, KY

...You know, basketball is a part of me. I couldn't get away from it if I tried.

I played at Newport High School from 1972 to 1976 back in a time when basketball was not fully accepting young women playing the game....

I enjoyed playing the game, I really did!....I always helped around the house and then I could go out on the court. And I lived on the court until it was dinner time and then I was back on the court. Rain, snow, shine, it didn't matter what the weather was. I even played in the snow when the ball wouldn't even bounce!



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MUSEUM on Main Street

...I remember that we had a lot of people coming to the games and I think the fact that we were winning helped....but the people that did come were people that always came whether we won or lost, regardless of the weather, people came to follow us.

...I see more of that hometown spirit, that support, in the smaller communities in the state of Kentucky. I see when you go down to eastern Kentucky or western Kentucky, in the county schools; in the area where basketball is the sport, we live and die by the game.

I see that more wholesome support of programs, where you...look in the stands and you see everybody's grandpa, grandma, and cousins, and, you know, I see that. I saw that when I was in high school. I saw that from the county schools a lot too.

Audio Interview 2: Venice Beach Basketball

"Streetball" with an Older Player on Famous Venice Beach, California

This is Venice Beach, California and the reason I like to play here is because it's an egalitarian court, you know? Age doesn't matter; sex doesn't matter....You know, everybody just let's everybody play and the other issues don't come into play.

I've been coming here since the 1970s.

There are weekday guys and there are weekend guys. So, it's like the weekend guys, we come out around 8, 8:30. But, now it's getting later, like 9am. The weekday guys, they come out Monday, Wednesday, Friday and it used to be 11 o'clock, then it got to be 12, now it's 1...

New guys come out and then they get integrated into the thing. And you, so like that's the A court, and then there's...and then we make up like an old man's court, you know? Everybody likes to make it at least somewhat even...

Well, it's a fellowship, you know? Like, my boy, Andrew out there. He's close to my age and we've both been out here since the '70s. So, we're like the two senior-circuit guys!

Audio Interview 3: Football

Newkirk High School Head Football Coach, Robert Underwood in Newkirk, Oklahoma

Football may be the state religion in Oklahoma.

Yes, all towns in Oklahoma get around their football, I mean it's unbelievable the way they want to be part of it.



And it's interesting because you only get to play football for about four or five years of your life, but you're still telling those stories when you're fifty and sixty years old. So I mean everybody lives it and they live through these kids every Friday night.

On Friday nights in Oklahoma, people will come up Thursday night and put their blankets down, tape them down to the bench, to the stands, so they get to have their seat.

And there are some families that have sat in the same spot for years. And it's that way all over the state of Oklahoma.

They just get excited and they live through the boys out there on Friday night.

Audio Interview 4: Baseball

Minnesota Twins Team Curator and Historian, Clyde Doepner

Love hometown teams....Growing up our family always go to church in the morning, have a big dinner at noon, and you'd go down and watch the local town team play another town. You had a lot of pride in your town and when your town could beat the other town in baseball, it surely proved you were better than them and you were living in the right place!

And people always say, "Oh, you live in Minnesota!" There's an identity to the term Minnesota or Minnesota Twins, it's something you take pride in.

The earlier days still mean everything to me. When I look back, it might represent a simpler time, but it was like nationalism on a local level. You're proud of your town, you're proud of being from that town.

....I remember being on my first team and the coach saying, "You have the name of your town on your jersey. Wherever you go, represents our town. Make us proud." And that's really what you try and do in life. You try to live it the right way, do it the right way, be a role model. So, from the earliest ages, we were kind of taught to be role models for our town; to be proud of where you were from.

I still have my high school letterman's jacket hanging up at home in my retro basement. I'm still very proud when they do interviews and they say, "Where are you from?" and I say "Originally, North St. Paul." It goes back to that pride as an aspiration. All of us that played together would be at the ball park on Sunday and watching the town team play. And our goal was realistically, we weren't gonna all make the big leagues, I didn't, one of us did. And our goal was to play town team ball someday. And once again, what's the name on your shirt? "North St. Paul." And to once again represent yourself.



Audio Interview 5: Hockey

Hockey legend, John Mayasich and Eveleth High School Girls Hockey Players at the Hippodrome in Eveleth, MN on hockey in Minnesota.

Mayasich:

“Born here in 1933, my parents Croatian immigrants. My father worked in the mine for forty-some years, the underground. We had one pair of skates in the family, and they were girls’ skates, kind of high. They weren’t for figure skating, just, they were too big of course. Somebody had been wearing them and one of the blades kind of went in. I said, “I hope someday that I’ll have skates that work!” I really never had a pair of skates all through high school, they were used that I got from somebody.

So we played after school on this outdoor rink, went home for supper, and went out and played again. And weekends, you know, 10 hours a day, Saturday and Sunday we played outdoors. We played out on the street in front of our house, snow banks back then were five or six feet high. We’d cut goals and play with a tennis ball or a sponge ball. They had four or five outdoor rinks in Eveleth. That’s where the kids learned their hockey.

We’d come down here probably at age maybe 6 or 7. We’d play on a Saturday morning, they had teams, but growing up, I used to watch the city team. We had a city team and they played at night. I’m looking at the door. We used to stand outside didn’t have money to pay to get in, thirty below zero, and somebody would open the door and we’d see a couple periods. I think by watching those, that team, I pick up a lot of things that I practiced on my own. So that was really our coaching. That’s what we learned by watching.”

(End of Mayasich transcript)

(Start Girls Transcript):

Student 1: “The Hippodrome, it’s in Eveleth. It’s kind of a big deal. We’ve got all the awards and memories here. I joined late when I was in Junior High. I was a figure skater, but now I play hockey and yeah I play here since at the Hipp. I just remember back, I only started hockey when I was a little older, but when I a lot younger I’d play hockey because my dad was a coach and I’d wear all his uniforms and everything and it was just really exciting, I guess.”

Student 2: “When I was little, I remember, like when this rink was closed or when there was practice going on, I don’t care. I would have put my skates on, and went on pond hockey. Or went on the street, you know? Just found anywhere that had a patch of ice and was shooting pucks and always had a stick in my hand.”

Student 1: “I always came here. My uncles and all my cousins played here. And I always came and scrimmaged against them and we always had so much fun. It’s home for real. ...We’ve spent, hockey season we spend every day, almost two hours a day here and it’s just...it’s going to be hard to leave this place that’s for sure. It’s a huge deal! Everybody comes to the games;



everybody is cheering everybody on, especially when we play our rivals, everybody gets really into it. Minnesota is just associated with hockey. That's just how it is. It's a big deal."

Audio Interview 6: Soccer

Beacon Hill Youth Soccer President, Larry McCann in Seattle, WA

I was never really a soccer player, but my kids in town here joined soccer and...I went to the games and I was just amazed that there were so many different languages spoken on the sidelines and I said, "Wow, community!" You know. This is it!

And all those communities really love the game of soccer in their home countries. And when they come here, they're just naturals and they're really enthusiastic about it.

I hear a lot of positive comments from our families that this is right; this is really a great program. So, by word of mouth it expands quite well. And we get a lot of support too from our own community, from people that can afford it, and from the greater community so that we can compete.

This game can bring the community together. And regardless of language barriers, they all speak soccer. They all know the language of the game. They know the rules, they understand it, and they all shout "Goal!" together when a goal is scored. And so, it's a really great community-builder.

Audio Interview 7: Skiing

Anchorage, Alaska Native and Olympian in Cross-Country Skiing, Nina Kemppe

The first time I started skiing I was two years old, and in my hometown, Anchorage, Alaska, everyone pretty much skied as soon as they could walk.

I remember going with my parents and tramping along behind them as we went through the forest. My dad would take his pole and hit the birch trees so all the snow would fall on my head and I thought it was a fantastic, exciting time to just be out with my parents skiing through the woods.

My favorite trail in all of Alaska is Hatcher Pass, which is high up in the mountains, above the tree-line. The sun would be setting at night, the whole mountainside would turn pink with alpine glow and you'd just be gliding along in this beautiful snow and mountain scene.

In Alaska, skiing is part of our culture; it's part of what we do. The mountains, the hills that we ski in are part of the landscape and part of what defines us as a town, as a community, as a culture. So, skiing is very much a natural piece of what we do.



Section 4

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

It's not just the players on the field that make sports such a big part of our lives. On the sidelines and in the parking lots, down in the box seats and up in the bleachers, the sights and sounds of fans enjoying the game are all part of a grand sports tradition in America.

We wear our team's colors, eager to proclaim our allegiance and support. We cheer and yell, with the hope that our passion will prompt our team to victory. Whether teams win or lose, the fan experience and the rituals that go with it are an important part of sports in our hometowns.

Excerpt:

Take me out to the ball game,
Take me out with the crowd;
Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack,
I don't care if I never get back.
Let me root, root, root for the home team,
If they don't win, it's a shame.
For it's one, two, three strikes, you're out,
At the old ball game.
– Jack Norworth and Albert Von Tilzer, 1908

Images

Pawtucket Red Sox Baseball Club

Roger Owens, America's "Peanut Man," is famous for doing amazing tosses to fans at California's Dodger Stadium since 1962.

Photo provided by Roger Owens

Stadium Seat Cushion Interactive

Cushion 1

Who threw the **first** first pitch to start baseball season?

President William Howard Taft started the tradition when he kicked off the 1910 baseball season with a ceremonial first pitch at Washington, D.C.'s Griffith Stadium.

Image:

President Taft
Library of Congress

Cushion 2

Why is "The Star-Spangled Banner" played at the start of so many athletic events?



Smithsonian Institution

MUSEUM on Main Street

During the 1918 World Series between the Boston Red Sox and Chicago Cubs, bands played “The Star-Spangled Banner” to honor World War I veterans. Fans loved the performances. Other teams and other sports adopted the song, and an American sports tradition was born. In 1931, the song officially became the national anthem.

Image:

Anthem Singers for Albuquerque Isotopes
Kim Jew Sports Photography

Cushion 3

What’s the point of the seventh-inning stretch?

A break during baseball games may have originated as early as 1869 when fans in Cincinnati took some time during the seventh inning to stand up from the hard bleachers and stretch.

Image:

Sheet music for “Take Me Out to the Ballgame”
Library of Congress

Cushion 4

ERAs, RBIs ... What’s with all of those statistics?

Baseball (and other sports) are dream games for data hounds. Every at-bat, hit, and home run provides information for tracking the progress of your favorite team and the achievements of your favorite players.

Image:

Scorecard

Cushion 5

How did nachos become so popular at ballparks?

Ignacio “Nacho” Anaya is said to have created nachos in a Piedras Negras, Mexico, restaurant in 1943. Nachos became popular in Texas, and Arlington Stadium began offering the snack in 1976. When sportscaster Howard Cosell mentioned nachos in a “Monday Night Football” telecast, their popularity began to spread nationally.

Image:

Nachos container
Margaret Montgomery

Cushion 6

How did Cracker Jack popcorn become linked to baseball?

“Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack / I don’t care if I never get back.” Jack Norworth may just have been looking for a rhyme with “back” when he wrote “Take Me



Out to the Ball Game” in 1908. But the song made the candy-coated popcorn treat a baseball favorite.

Image:

Cracker Jack box

Robert Elzey

Cushion 7

Why do teams shake hands?

As a display of good sportsmanship, athletes make a point of acknowledging the opposing player or team. In most scholastic sports, teams will often line up, and players will move down the line to shake their opponents’ hands.

Image:

Teams from California State-Fullerton and Illinois shake hands after a game

Matt Brown

Cushion 8

What is your favorite baseball superstition?

BAD LUCK

Lending your bat to another player

A dog walking across the diamond

GOOD LUCK

Not shaving during a winning streak

Wearing the same socks all season

Image:

Rally caps: When a team is behind, some players turn their caps inside out for luck.

Kim Swales

Side 2

Get in the Game!

Fans play an active role in sports, and like the players on the field, they have their own set of traditions. Singing “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” makes the seventh-inning stretch a fun part of baseball. In many sports, the Wave rolls through the stands, while the most dedicated fans paint their faces in team colors and create banners and signs — all in support of the hometown team. Fans in the stands clap, whistle, hoot, and holler; they are an essential part of the game.

Objects

Fans can choose from an arsenal of spirit gear. What do you take to the game to show your love for your team?



Smithsonian Institution

MUSEUM on Main Street

Pom-poms, “Hook ‘em Horns” foam finger from University of Texas, megaphone, thundersticks, and cowbell.

Images:

How do fans in your community show their spirit?

(left) Wave a souvenir like this young baseball fan?
Albuquerque Isotopes

(right) Make a human billboard? Illinois fans form their “Block I” in the stands.
Courtesy of University of Illinois DIA, Mark Jones

(below) Break out the body paint? Fans at Texas Tech University.
Image by David Kozlowski

“Story Stop”: Stories from Main Street interactive question

What is your favorite game day tradition?

Side 3

Tastes of the Game

Few things reflect the diversity of our national traditions like our foods. The foods we enjoy at a game are all imbued with their own history.

Tailgating is a national sports ritual; foods particular to certain regions of America — brats in the upper Midwest, barbecue in the Southwest — are enjoyed hours before game time. Beer is the drink of choice, and between innings or during halftime, a run to the concession stand for a hot dog is a time-honored tradition.

“A hot dog at a baseball game beats roast beef at the Ritz.”

-- Humphrey Bogart

Image

Walk through the parking lot of a stadium and you may find tailgating fans dining on seafood or barbecue, or grilling steaks.

Credit TBD

Objects

Peanuts are great for the ballpark, where vendors can easily toss bags of peanuts to fans.

Peanut bag



Smithsonian Institution

MUSEUM on Main Street

Images

Pittsburgh sports fans feast on sandwiches with the sides (coleslaw, tomatoes, fries) on top from local deli Primanti Brothers. Other cities have great sandwiches too: Grab a New England lobster roll in Boston, salmon BLT in Seattle, or short rib melt in Kansas City.

Primanti Brothers Sandwich
Dominique King (www.midwestguest.com)

Parents operating concession stands at Gulf Coast High School in Naples, Florida, noticed that students tended to walk around at football games. So they created the portable “walking taco” — a bag of corn chips with meat and taco garnishes, served with a spoon.

Joann Chau for the Naples Daily News

A vendor sells cotton candy at a baseball game

© iStockPhoto / Laura D Young

Side 4

Make Some Noise

Cheering — organized and otherwise — elevates the fan experience and fuels the hometown team’s will to win. Cheerleaders yell out their cheers and team spirit fills the air. Bands add to the excitement by playing traditional fight songs. And mascots enliven the crowd with their silly antics.

Images

Fans in stands

Brent Wojan / *The Oregonian*

Go Team!

Princeton University had the first pep squad, which led cheers at football games in the 1880s. But the first organized cheerleading squad started at the University of Minnesota in 1898. Until the 1920s, male students dominated cheerleading, but women soon emerged as squad leaders. Even professional teams saw the benefit of spirit squads. The Green Bay Packers organized its first cheerleading team in 1931 — with cheerleaders from Green Bay’s East and West High Schools.

Cheerleaders join the team in honoring the National Anthem, Allen High School, Allen, Texas.

Photo by Tim Carroll, Allen ISD, Allen, TX

Cheering on the baseball team, Good Will-Hinckley School, Hinckley, Maine, 1955.

Collections of Maine Historical Society #54453



The 12th Man

The tradition of the “12th man” holds that the enthusiasm and support of the fans makes them an additional member of the team. A sign at Texas A&M University’s Kyle Field calls the stadium the “Home of the 12th Man.” They don’t call it a “home field advantage” for nothing!

The Corps of Cadets leads the fans in a cheer, Texas A&M University, College Station, 2005.

© 2012, Texas A & M University

Musical Spirit

Drums booming. A sea of marching musicians. The irresistible urge to move your feet. Music adds to the pageantry of athletic events. Using bands to bolster team spirit emerged in the early 1900s, when Purdue University produced its “Block P” as the first marching formation, and the University of Illinois created the first halftime show. Popular bands at historically black universities, such as Hampton University and Florida A&M University, introduced dance lines into their elaborate halftime shows.

Grambling State University marching band, 2005.

Jesse Beals. www.OlympicPhotoGroup.com

A Crowd Pleaser

Team mascots bring humor and fun to the game. Whether in high school or the professional ranks, costumed mascots entertain fans by stealing bases, taunting the opposing team, posing for photos, and joining cheerleaders in firing up the crowd. Mascots are often as recognizable as star players to the public.

Clyde the Lambkin, mascot for Fort Collins (Colorado) High School
Fort Collins High School

More Than a Name

Team names are chosen to evoke strength, speed, power, tenacity, and even humor. They are a brand that builds a sense of unity around a team.

Some team names are considered culturally offensive — particularly in the way Native Americans are depicted. Professional teams like the Washington Redskins and Atlanta Braves are sometimes shadowed by activists protesting their team names. On the other hand, the teams and their fans feel the names carry a long-held proud tradition.

What are the names of teams in your community?
Why they were chosen?
How do you feel about them?

“Story Stop”: Stories from Main Street interactive question



What do you like best about sporting events?

Spirit of the Game Interactive

Team names, mascots, cheerleaders, fight songs and bands

Section 5

Playing the Game

Playing the game is more than putting on a uniform and taking the field. It's about winning, following the rules and exhibiting the best sportsmanship. Adhering to these standards teaches young athletes in hometowns across America the value of fair competition.

On occasion, however, our zeal to win oversteps the standards of fair play. Performance enhancement drugs such as steroids, illegal equipment and practices, and simple cheating have soiled, at one time or another, nearly every sport.

Despite these pressures, most athletes redouble their efforts to win with integrity, by training, preparing, and performing to protect the virtues of the games we all love.

"Winning isn't everything; it's the only thing."

– Vince Lombardi, Green Bay Packers head coach

Images

All athletes relish the joy of performing at their best and being part of a winning team.

The Gulf Coast Cardinals celebrate a victory, Lake Jackson, Texas, 2009.

"Hometown Glory" by: Brenda Read Photography

Even in defeat, athletes find new opportunities to grow and mature.

Beaver Falls High School's Sheldon Jeter reacts after an overtime loss, Pennsylvania, 2013.

Beaver County Times / Sylvester Washington, Jr.

Athletes and coaches cope with enormous pressure to perform and to win. Learning to handle stress is part of the game plan.

Coolidge High School guard Julian Williams listens to his coach's instructions, Washington, D.C., 2009.

Michael Starghill Jr.

On the playing field, there is no substitute for pure determination.

Soccer players from Ohio's Wellington and Independence High Schools compete in muddy conditions, 2011.

Credit TBD



“Story Stop”: Stories from Main Street interactive question

What lessons do you think sports teach us?

Trophy Case

Collection of trophies, medals, plaques, pennants with the following images:

Webb City (Missouri) High School football players celebrate winning a state championship, 2009.

The Joplin Globe/T. Rob Brown

The Crispus Attucks High School basketball team poses with the trophy for its second Indiana state championship, Indianapolis, 1956.

INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P0206 William Plamer

The Lake Mills (Iowa) High School volleyball team receives its trophy for placing second in the state finals, 2010.

Andrew Dyrdal/Albert Lea Tribune

Belgium, Wisconsin team

Ozaukee Press, Port Washington, WI, Photo by Vern Arendt

The Open Juvenile Red Team of DC Edge (Washington Figure Skating Club) celebrates a third-place finish at the 18th Annual Synchronized Skating Classic, Gallo Ice Arena, Bourne, Massachusetts.

Photo by Kirk Geter.

Side 2

Everyone Plays

Although sports have always been a part of American culture, equality in sports, as in society itself, was not easy to come by. African Americans and women, in particular, struggled to gain the same athletic opportunities enjoyed by white males.

In 1947, Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in baseball, paving the way for other African American ballplayers to realize their dream of playing in the major leagues.

In 1972, legislation known as Title IX banned sex discrimination in federally funded educational programs, including high school and college sports. This landmark legislation entitled young female athletes to the same funding and support that boys enjoyed.

Images

After he shattered the racial barrier in baseball, Jackie Robinson advocated for equality for others. He called out other Major League Baseball teams that had not welcomed African



American athletes and publicly criticized hotels and restaurants that would serve his white teammates, but not him.

Library of Congress

Jerome Singleton Jr. won gold and silver medals at the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing. Despite losing a leg when he was 18 months old, Singleton followed his sister into track and basketball and lettered as a varsity football player in high school before competing on the Olympic stage.

University of Michigan Credit TBD

Mia Hamm was a member of a U.S. national women's soccer team that won two World Cups and two Olympic gold medals. But before she became a star, Hamm simply wanted to play sports. She even played football as a middle-school student. Throughout her career and since retiring from soccer, Hamm has been a role model for girls who want to pursue athletics.

UNC Athletic Communications

Flipbook – Game Changers

The 1965–66 Texas Western Men's Basketball Team

The men's basketball team at Texas Western College powered through the 1965–66 season with 27 wins and one loss. And when they reached the national championship game in March 1966, the team made history: Texas Western was the first team in a national championship whose starting lineup was entirely African American. Their opponent was number-one-ranked Kentucky — an all-white team that had resisted integration. Texas Western defeated Kentucky 72–65. They not only won the championship; they proved that race should not be a factor in selecting a team.

UTEP Athletics

Mamie Johnson

Mamie Johnson was one of three women who played baseball in the Negro Leagues. But she was the only woman to earn a spot as a pitcher, playing from 1953 to 1955. Johnson tried out for a women's baseball league as a teenager, but was turned away because of her race. In 1953 a former Negro League player saw her practice and encouraged her to play professionally. He introduced her to the Indianapolis Clowns' manager, and she made the team in one tryout. She compiled a 33–8 record as a pitcher over three seasons.

Negro Leagues Baseball Museum

Breaking Barriers in Little League

In 1950, Kathryn Johnston pretended to be a boy to try out for Little League in Corning, New York. The local league let her play, but Little League executives responded by specifically banning girls in 1951.

In 1972, Maria Pepe landed a spot on a team in Hoboken, New Jersey, but quit when Little League officials threatened to shut down her league. After public protest, Little League reversed



course in 1974, allowing girls to try out for local teams and creating a national softball league. Today, thousands of girls play in softball programs and baseball leagues across the country.

Photo courtesy of Maria Pepe and Little League

Althea Gibson Opens Doors

Often called the “female Jackie Robinson,” Althea Gibson shattered racial barriers in professional tennis and golf. In 1950, she was invited to the U.S. Open and, a year later, became the first African American invited to play at Wimbledon. She won the French Open in 1956 and won back-to-back women’s singles titles in 1957 and 1958 at both the U.S. Open and Wimbledon. In 1957, Gibson became the first African American to be named the Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year. In 1964, Gibson became the first African American to join the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA).

Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, NYWT&S Collection, LC-USZ62-115789

Tatyana McFadden

At 15, Tatyana McFadden was the youngest American competitor at the 2004 Paralympic Games. Born with spina bifida, McFadden lived in a Russian orphanage before being adopted by a Maryland family in 1994. McFadden’s mother steered Tatyana into sports. She quickly became an accomplished wheelchair racer, earning ten Paralympic medals and winning marathons.

McFadden also took her fighting spirit into lobbying for equal access for disabled athletes. While in high school, McFadden sued to be allowed to race in track events. She won, and Maryland became the first state to mandate equal access for students with disabilities to athletic programs.

Credit TBD

Ann Meyers Drysdale

The adoption of Title IX in 1972 by schools gave female athletes greater power, resources, and respect for their talents. In 1974 Ann Meyers (Drysdale) became the first woman at the University of California, Los Angeles, to earn a four-year athletic scholarship. It was just the start of a career in barrier-bashing. She was the first woman to receive a contract with a professional basketball team and later became a NBC sports broadcaster. Then, she became a sports executive, serving as vice-president for the NBA’s Phoenix Suns and president and general manager of the WNBA’s Phoenix Mercury.

Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California – Los Angeles

Support for Athletes of All Abilities

Hundreds of organizations help young athletes with physical and intellectual challenges. The Little League’s Challenger Division formed in 1989 and today boasts local affiliates around the world and more than 30,000 participants. The Special Olympics, which helps young athletes with intellectual disabilities, organized in 1968 in Chicago. Today, more than 3.5 million athletes participate in Special Olympics around the world. In 1988, Special Olympics organized a “Unified



Sports” program, creating leagues in which athletes with and without challenges play on the same teams.

Little League Challenger player at Midland Rock Hounds game, Midland, Texas Midland Rock Hounds

Jim Thorpe

Jim Thorpe (Sac and Fox) was one of the most versatile athletes in American sports. Thorpe achieved national recognition when the Carlisle Industrial School for Indians, won the national football title in 1912. He won gold medals in the pentathlon and decathlon at the 1912 Olympics, became a star in the NFL and Major League Baseball, and played for the Oorang Indians, an all-Native American football team. Yet, despite his talents, Thorpe’s achievements were often reported in condescending language because of his Indian background. Americans now recognize Thorpe as one of the all-time greats.

Library of Congress, George Grantham Bain Collection

Side 3

Locker 1

A Winning Relationship

On hometown fields across America, coaches guide young athletes, teaching them the rules and instilling in them a competitive edge that carries into adulthood. Coaches are fathers, mothers, and volunteers; they give their time for the love of the game, which they hope to pass on to the next generation. Many coaches even become mentors to athletes, instructing them not only in their chosen sport, but also in the game of life.

“Go out there and hit ‘em. Crack ‘em! Fight to live! Fight to win! Fight to win, win, win, win!”

– Knute Rockne, Notre Dame football coach, 1918–1930

Objects

Playbook

Whistle

Images

Pat Summitt, former head coach of the University of Tennessee women’s basketball team, retired in 2012 after scoring 1,098 victories and mentoring hundreds of athletes.

University of Tennessee

Mother, mentor, and former university coach Dorothy Franco-Reed encourages her daughter Kylee during a volleyball match in Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

Tom Reed Photo

Losing Focus



On occasion, the will to win becomes overly competitive and leads to undue pressure on young athletes. These incidents can escalate, leading coaches and even parents to engage in heated disagreements. Fortunately, these displays of poor sportsmanship are rare exceptions to the wonderful work of coaches on countless fields across the country.

Image:

Ohio State's football coach Woody Hayes won five national championships in 28 seasons, but his legendary career ended when he lost his temper during the 1978 Gator Bowl and punched an opposing player.

Ohio State campus newspaper article on Hayes' firing; from The Ohio State University Archives

Locker 2

Learning the Rules

Without rules, a sporting event would result in chaos. Referees and umpires police the games we play; they make sure that if a rule is broken, a penalty follows. "Refs" and "umps" as we like to call them, often are the recipients of fan frustration. But without them and the rules of the game they enforce, sports would be unstructured.

Objects

Rule book
Officiating Volleyball book
Soccer penalty cards
Football penalty flag
Coca-Cola ad showing referee hand signals

Images

A soccer referee throws red cards before ejecting two players and a coach from a game between the Jesuit Blue Jays and Archbishop Rummel Raiders in New Orleans, Louisiana, 2008.

Why do some referees wear black and white stripes?

The tradition can be traced to Lloyd Olds, a high school and college football referee in Michigan. In 1920, while Olds was presiding over a game in his usual white shirt, a member of the visiting team (also wearing white) mistakenly passed the ball to Olds. He started wearing stripes to avoid confusion and the practice caught on.

A football referee calls a foul, Oklahoma, 2007.

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Locker 3

Playing on the Edge



Sometimes the pressure to win leads athletes to break the rules. The use of performance-enhancing drugs gives athletes an unfair advantage. In baseball and bicycling, football and bodybuilding, even in horse racing, drug use causes scandals and diminishes fair play. Drugs also endanger an athlete's health.

Not all performance enhancers are illegal or dangerous. Sports drinks, protein supplements, and copper bracelets are just some examples of legal and widely used performance enhancers that athletes young and old use to maximize results on the playing field.

Objects

Gatorade G2 Series bottle
G Series energy chews
Power bars

Images

At Smith Center (Kansas) High School, athletes and cheerleaders must pledge to steer clear of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol. Athletes who violate the pledge are barred from the team and must go to the town's elementary school to explain to young students how their actions led to their punishment. Many schools across the country require conduct standards for athletes.

Player trading card and no-drug pledge
Courtesy of Smith Center High School

“Story Stop”: Stories from Main Street interactive question

What (or who) inspires you to be an athlete or a sports fan?

Side 4

Prepare + Practice = Win

Preparation and practice are the keys to maximizing performance. Today's athletes have made their bodies into powerful machines — bigger, stronger, and faster than ever before — by embracing strength training and focused diets. But success depends on more than physical prowess. Athletes and coaches pour time and attention into learning even the most subtle aspects of their sport to ensure successful performances on the playing field.

Image

Every element of a coach's plan requires a player's attention. Florida A&M University players review a play diagram drawn by football coach Jake Gaither.

State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory,
<http://floridamemory.com/items/show/71899>

Clipboard

Practice schedules
Diets of swimmer, wrestler, long distance runner



Play diagrams

Making the Effort

In wind, rain, fog, heat, and cold, you'll find athletes perfecting their game. Practice and training are crucial elements of every athlete's day. Learning new techniques, getting stronger and faster, and working well with teammates lead to success. The average American athlete practices about 12 hours each week, but a 2011 survey found that college football and baseball players spend more than 40 hours per week on their sports.

Images:

Who needs snow? The Woodstock High School ski team uses special skis with wheels to practice during the summer, Vermont, 2012.

Vermont Standard photo by Charles Kahn

Ball cage (filled with a variety of balls)

Protecting the Player

Despite a revolution in equipment design, athletes today, especially in contact sports like football, must deal with the threat of serious injury. What do you wear when you play?

Objects

GLOVES

Can you imagine catching a baseball with your bare hands? That's how early players did it. Baseball gloves were introduced in the late 1800s. The "pocket" we see on modern gloves that helps in catching a ball emerged in the 1920s.

Three-fingered baseball glove, 1940s

Modern baseball glove

Image:

1894 patent for a catcher's mitt

National Archives

SHOES

Lift and compare the older and newer soccer shoes. What's the difference? It's the weight. Modern soccer shoes are lighter and use rubber blades that improve a player's grip on the pitch.

Adidas soccer cleat, c. 1980

Modern Adidas soccer cleat

HELMETS



Would you play football without a helmet? The first leather football helmets emerged in the 1890s but were not required until the 1930s. Plastic helmets were introduced in 1939, and facemasks were added in the 1950s. Football helmets continue to evolve as players and coaches seek better protection from head injuries.

Leather football helmet, 1940s
Riddell youth football helmet, 2012

Video (monitor attached to side of cage)

“Why I Play” – (personal reflections of athletes on who taught them to play and where they learned to play)

Section 6

Root, Root, Root for the Home Team

Everyone in America loves a winner — especially a team or athlete from our hometown. We fill with pride and share in their success and in many ways embrace it as our own. Sports carry over into our daily lives as well as into the character and make-up of our communities.

Local sports leagues keep us connected with each other. Booster clubs support high school athletics. Corporate sponsorships help with the financial cost of local teams. Pep rallies bond students and town elders alike. And when a hometown team is victorious, the entire community celebrates with a parade and other award ceremonies to bring the community still closer together.

“Look around you, guys. Do you think you have enough support? These are the people that make you special and our school special and our town special.”

– Roger Barta, head football coach, Smith Center (Kansas) High School, speaking to his team after a win, 2008

Objects

A high school yearbook open to photos about homecoming and pep rallies (communities can switch these out and use their own yearbooks)

Image

University of Wisconsin parade
Jeff Miller / University of Wisconsin-Madison

Pep Rallies



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MUSEUM on Main Street

Pep rallies whip up fan fervor for school teams. Whether they're held on a school's basketball court or on the campus quad, pep rallies bring athletes, students, bands, cheerleaders, and fans together in a common cause — cheering for the team in advance of a big game.

2012 Rose Bowl pep rally

University of Oregon / Jack Liu

Homecoming

For many communities, homecoming is the biggest spirit event of the year, encouraging graduates and fans to “come home” for parades and rallies that support the school's teams. Baylor University may have been the first school to hold an organized homecoming with a parade in 1909. The practice spread to colleges and high schools across the country.

Baylor University homecoming parade, 2010

Baylor University / Marketing and Communications / Matthew Minard

Side 2

Parents and Boosters

Parents play a special part in hometown sports. They volunteer as coaches and referees, and shuttle kids to practices and games. “Soccer Moms” — mothers in mini-vans filled with young, uniformed athletes — are the unsung heroes of hometown sports. Their dedication and determination to give their children the best opportunity to succeed has resulted in a generation of younger and more competitive athletes in American hometowns. For families with several children active in sports, the financial commitment and calendar crunch can be enormous.

“This was her dream, and I'm there to support it, not take over. So my role was basically to be just that: her supporter.”

— Natalie Hawkins, mother of Olympic gymnastics champion Gabrielle Douglas

Images

Booster club parent stocks concession stand at Cuyahoga Falls High School, Ohio.

Mike Cardew/*Akron Beacon-Journal*

Parents assist young swimmers, Roanoke, Virginia, 2012.

Angie Covington

Newspaper ad wishing the Bemidji High Lumberjacks luck in an upcoming tournament, Minnesota, 1972.

The Pioneer

Franklin High School fans are steadfast supporters in the stands during a rain-soaked 36–0 loss, New Jersey, 1977.

Steve Goodman and Packet Media Group



Chinook High School fans brave snow to watch their beloved Sugarbeeters play, Montana.

Morgan Tyree

Never underestimate hometown support! A hay bale sign greets visitors as they arrive in Fromberg, Montana.

Morgan Tyree

Travel America and you'll see love for local teams at every turn, like this sign in Wallace, North Carolina.

Terri Cobb

Objects

Display Your Pride!

Strong teams receive their firm foundation from supportive communities. Fans and local businesses put time and money into the effort by joining booster clubs, purchasing souvenir gear, and attending games in any kind of weather. Booster clubs provide signs, cards, and decals to help hometowns demonstrate their loyalty.

Booster membership card

Booster hockey puck

3 booster car decals

“Story Stop”: Stories from Main Street interactive question

How do sports bring people together in your community?

Side 3

Rivalries

Over time, rivalries between towns and teams served to boost interest in sports and intensified competition. With signs and displays, storefronts help tell the sports story in our hometowns. Banners that hang across Main Street keep “the big game” the talk of the town. Former players recall classic games in bars and barbershops, and newspapers recount the victories and defeats from long ago.

“It's a spirited, colorful, violent spectacle that has broken up marriages and businesses and an awful lot of hearts in the past 64 years”

– Bob Myers, *Charlotte News*, on the South Carolina-Clemson football rivalry, 1966

Objects

Army/Navy athletics program



Images

Duke's basketball fans, the "Cameron crazies," are known for taunting opposing players, especially against arch-rival North Carolina, 2013.

Getty Images credit TBD

South Sevier and Richfield high school players renew their basketball rivalry. Monroe, Utah, 2013

David Anderson / *Richfield Reaper*

The rivalry between Arizona and Arizona State burns brightly in all sports, including softball. Tempe, Arizona, 2009.

© *Arizona Republic*, 2009. David Wallace. Used with permission. Permission does not imply endorsement.

Army and Navy football players face off at the scrimmage line

Danny Wild / USMA

Video

"Rivalries" (a look at traditions that surround rivalry games around the country)

Flipbook

Big-Time Rivalries

Famous rivalries all over the country are rooted in geography, connections through athletic conferences, and even historic events. Southern California and UCLA are cross-town rivals linked by years of spirited competition. State university rivalries like Georgia vs. Florida are famous across the country. Some fans claim that the animosity of today's "Kansas-Missouri Border War" can be traced to guerrilla warfare between the two states during the Civil War. In-state rivalries like Oregon-Oregon State often pit neighbor against neighbor. Pro sports also thrive on heated rivalries — like the Green Bay Packers and Minnesota Vikings or the Yankees and the Red Sox.

Images:

1965 Harvard-Yale game program

Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University

Travel advertisement for the 1900 Ohio State-Michigan game

The Ohio State University Archives

Program for the 1959 "Big Thursday" rivalry game between South Carolina and Clemson

University of South Carolina Archives

Rivals Become One Team



In many rural communities, declining enrollments at schools can make it difficult to find enough athletes for their teams. Some schools play “six-man” or “eight-man” football. In Montana, one of the most storied rivalries in six-man football was between the Geraldine Tigers and Highwood Mountaineers, teams from towns just 30 miles apart. From 1988 to 2010, the schools participated in 18 Montana six-man championship games — facing each other in five of them. But in 2011, the high schools in Geraldine (population 216) and Highwood (population 196) joined forces to create a cooperative team, with a name that gives a nod to their history: the Geraldine/Highwood Rivals.

Image:

Rivals become a team – Geraldine/Highwood in Montana
Morgan Tyree

It’s Not Just in Football

Fierce competition and rich traditions heat up the play in nearly every sport. Cornell hockey fans throw fish on the ice when Harvard players are introduced. In baseball, the rivalry between New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox fans goes back generations and has spread across the country. The “Battle for the Bluegrass,” the bitter basketball rivalry between Louisville and Kentucky, stirs passions across the state each year.

Image:

Cross-town hockey rivals Boston College and Boston University fight it out at Fenway Park, 2010.

Karen A. Winger

Town vs. Town

High school rivalries stir passions at the local level. The rivalry between Needham and Wellesley in Massachusetts is the oldest public high school rivalry in the country, dating to 1882. Lincoln and San Jose high schools in California battle every year in the “Big Bone Game,” while Dodge City and Garden City high schools in Kansas play the “Hatchet Game.” Cross-border rivals Easton (Pennsylvania) and Phillipsburg (New Jersey) have played since 1906.

Image:

Passions between rivals are definitely high when a game is a “Death Struggle.. The Blue Eye and Oak Grove basketball teams compete in Arkansas, about 1900.

Photo courtesy Carol Harsh

Going Too Far

Rivalry games are a big motivation for athletes and generate lots of emotion among fans. But some fans can take it too far. In 2010, Auburn’s 28–27 defeat of Alabama led an angry Alabama fan to poison beloved oak trees on the Auburn campus. Fans on both sides responded with true sportsmanship: Many Alabama fans were appalled by the man’s actions and raised funds to save the trees. Auburn fans responded with assistance when a 2011 tornado destroyed neighborhoods near Alabama’s Tuscaloosa campus.



Alabama/Auburn program 1953
Auburn University Libraries Special Collections and Archives Department

Section 7

Sports Explosion!

In recent years, America has seen a sports revolution. NASCAR racing is practically a religion in some parts of America. Soccer, unfamiliar to many Americans before the 1970s, now rivals football and baseball in popularity, particularly with young people. Interest in lacrosse, a game devised by Native Americans hundreds of years ago, is on the rise. Motocross and mountain biking are here to stay. Board sports — surfing, snowboarding, and skateboarding — fuel a multi-billion-dollar “alternative” sports industry.

New, more extreme sports continue to elbow their way onto our sports landscape. Triathlons inspire athletes to push themselves to the limit, while rock climbing and extreme skiing attract the most fearless.

Images

Texas Roller Derby – Lonestar Rollergirls
Earl McGehee for Texas Roller Derby

2010 Iditarod
Mike Criss

BMX Biker
Jeff Chen/Trigger Images

Ultimate Frisbee
Jamie Doucett Photography

Wakeboarder Trever Maur
Thomas Gustafson www.thomasgustafson.com

Loyola lacrosse team
Gil Talbot / LoyolaGreyhounds.com

Ashima Shiraishi, youth rock climber
Erich Schlegel

Objects

Wakeboard



A wakeboard is often made of foam or wood and is covered with fiberglass to help it skim across the water’s surface. The light weight of the board helps wakeboarders take to the air to perform acrobatics.

Ironman Triathlon medal

Can you swim 2.4 miles, ride a bike 112 miles, and run a full 26.2-mile marathon — without a break? Can you finish it all in less than 17 hours? Ready? Thousands of people worldwide take on the tough challenges of an Ironman triathlon every year.

Ironman finishers medal

“Story Stop”: Stories from Main Street interactive question

What new sports do people in your town play?

Side 2

Name That Sport!

How do you define “sport”? Some sports may seem extreme or untraditional. Americans openly embrace the opportunity to create or adopt new sports. We are always looking for new ways to play.

“Name that Sport” Interactive

Can you name the sports on these photos? Flip the panel to see the answer.

Think about the most interesting elements of your favorite sports. How would you combine them to create a new sport?

Slamball

Slamball, which developed in the early 2000s, is based on basketball, with elements of hockey. Each team has four players. To add to the action, four trampolines are placed in front of each net so that players can jump higher when scoring a goal. While in the air, players can make physical contact to check an opponent. Hockey-like barriers keep the action on the court and away from the fans.

Photo by Jim Heath

Footvolley

Love volleyball? Love soccer? Then footvolley is your sport! Footvolley is played just as you would play a normal game of volleyball. But you can’t use your hands to keep the ball in the air. Players go airborne themselves to hit the ball back with their feet. The first sanctioned U.S. Footvolley event took place in 2002.

Luke Roque (green) tries a ‘shark attack’ shot while Thiago Salvador (grey) attempts to block.

Quidditch



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Based on the game invented by author J.K. Rowling in the Harry Potter book and film series, quidditch grew in popularity worldwide in the 2000s. There are currently more than 600 high school and college teams in the United States.

Jerry Wang Photography / Quidditch Photos

Pickleball

Americans of all ages are learning pickleball, a combination of elements from tennis, table tennis, and badminton. A match operates much like a tennis match, but players use a paddle and plastic “wiffle” ball on a court that is about one-third the size of a regulation tennis court. The sport is popular with senior citizens and young children, who enjoy the smaller court and slower pace of the game.

Chuck Roderique

Underwater Hockey

Wait a minute. Don’t you play hockey on top of frozen water? Underwater hockey is a popular sport, first played in 1954, that replaces skating with swimming. Players use a smaller handheld stick to move the puck across the floor of a swimming pool.

Adam Lau, adamlauphoto.com

Bike Polo

Polo without horses? Sounds like a new sport. But it’s not. Bike (or cycle) polo originated in Ireland in 1891 and had brief periods of popularity in the early 1900s. In the U.S., the sport began gaining in popularity in the 1980s and now there are independent bike polo clubs all across the country. The sport was recognized by the International Cycling Union in 2001.

© 2012 Bjorn Christianson

Side 3

Sports: Anytime, Anywhere

It’s never been easier to be a sports fan. Advances in media and technology enable us to follow our favorite teams on television, on our laptops and iPads, and even on our smart phones. We can still follow our favorite hometown teams, even if life takes us far from home, as more and more high school and local college games are streamed on the Internet. It all makes for an all-consuming sports experience.

Object

Transistor radio

Images

Even if you’re far away from your alma mater, following your favorite team with other fans is often as easy as visiting a nearby restaurant. Sports-themed establishments welcome local alumni groups to watch the teams they love.

DC Illini Alumni Association



Fantasy sports leagues provide another outlet for enthusiastic fans. Fantasy team “managers” select real athletes for their teams. Then they track their teams’ progress from game to game, based on each real-life player’s performances.

Participants in a fantasy football league at a senior center watch a game, Massachusetts, 2009.

Jon Chase photo / jonchase.com

Fantasy league members gather to hold a draft for a new season of play.

Getting Connected

Once upon a time, radio and television were the hot new technologies for enjoying sports. Families gathered around television sets to see their favorite teams in their own homes for the first time. Young fans listened to the games of distant teams on portable radios. Now the Internet serves up video and sports information 24/7 from all over the world to fans.

A magazine touts color television, 1957.

RCA Trademark Management SAS

Adam Cairns and Rebecca Bailey participate in an online fantasy football draft.

Adam Cairns Photography, Columbus, Ohio

Side 4

A Sporting Nation

The future of sports — in our hometowns and beyond — knows no bounds. Whether we enjoy traditional sports or develop new ones that reflect our cultural and athletic diversity, the thrill of competition and the drive to win is stronger than ever before. Athletes will continue to view sports as a means to achieve their goals and pursue them throughout their lives. Fans and spectators of all stripes will never let their teams down, cheering and supporting their favorites from the start of the game to the finish.

There is no escape from sports in our hometowns or anywhere else. We wouldn’t have it any other way!

Video

“Future of Sports” (interviews with youth athletes exploring their motivations and inspirations for playing sports, with a special focus on youth soccer leagues)

Images

Americans will continue to learn the lessons of character we all derive from sports — fair play, good sportsmanship, determination, teamwork, and the desire to win.

(above)



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Newkirk High School football players, Oklahoma, 2012
Photo by Tiffany Ruhl for Museum on Main Street

(below) A rookie youth rugby player practices in Magnuson Park, Seattle, Washington, 2010.

© 2012 Steven Seiller / Summit Lights Photography

“Story Stop”: Stories from Main Street interactive question

Why are sports popular in your community?

Sports Cards

Soccer Card

Front

Find the soccer ball at a Story Stop and tell us why sports are popular in your community.

Share your story at www.storiesfrommainstreet.org

Image:

Youth soccer player

Getty Images / Alan Bailey

Back

Q: How many children play soccer in the U.S.?

A: 3 million

In a 90-minute soccer match, a single player possesses the ball for an average of only three minutes.

STATISTICS:

number of players: 10 outfield, 1 goalkeeper per team

venue: field, 100 x 60 yards

game length: two 45-minute halves

equipment: leather ball, goal, gloves for keeper, shin guards for all players

scoring method: goal

Soccer is the favorite sport of about 14% of young Americans, coming in second to football.

www.museumonmainstreet.org



Smithsonian Institution

MUSEUM on Main Street

Football Card

Front

Find the football at a Story Stop and tell us what inspires you to be an athlete or sports fan.

Share your story at www.storiesfrommainstreet.org

Image:

High school football player
Morgan Tyree

Back

Q: When were football players first required to wear helmets?

A: 1943

The home team must provide the referee with 24 footballs for each NFL game.

STATISTICS:

number of players: 11 players per team

venue: field, 120 x 53.3 yards

game length: four 15-minute quarters

equipment: leather ball, protective gear, goalposts

scoring method: touchdown, field goal

In the early 1880s, Walter Camp drafted the first rules for American football. He reduced the number of players from 15 to 11 per team and introduced the line of scrimmage, a system of downs, the point system of scoring, and the quarterback position.

www.museumonmainstreet.org

Baseball Card

Front

Find the baseball at a Story Stop and tell us what makes your local ballpark special.

Share your story at www.storiesfrommainstreet.org

Image:

Woodgrove defeats Broadway in VA State AA girls softball finals
Getty Images/Washington Post

Back

Q: What is the average lifespan of a baseball used in a Major League game?

A: 5–7 pitches



The longest baseball game was between the Chicago White Sox and Milwaukee Brewers in 1984. It lasted 25 innings and took 8 hours and 6 minutes.

STATISTICS:

number of players: 9 players per team

venue: diamond-shaped field

game length: 9 innings

equipment: bat, ball, glove, batting helmet, catcher's armor

scoring method: runs

Although the game of baseball as we know it today is uniquely American, it derived from an English children's bat-and-ball game called rounders.

www.museumonmainstreet.org

Hockey Card

Front

Find the hockey stick at a Story Stop and tell us about your favorite game day tradition.

Share your story at www.storiesfrommainstreet.org

Image:

Youth hockey player

Rich Woodfin, NH Sports Photography

Back

Q: How thick is the ice on a hockey rink?

A: About $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch

A professional hockey goalie wears about 40 pounds of protective gear during a game.

STATISTICS:

number of players: 5 skaters, 1 goaltender

venue: ice rink, 85 x 200 feet

game length: three 20-minute periods

equipment: puck, stick, ice skates, helmet and pads

scoring method: goal

The name "hockey" is thought to come from the French word *hoquet*, meaning "hooked stick."

Goalies did not wear helmets until 1959, and the National Hockey League did not require helmets until 1979.



Smithsonian Institution

MUSEUM on Main Street

www.museumonmainstreet.org

Lacrosse

Front

Find the lacrosse stick at a Story Stop and tell us how sports bring people together in your community.

Share your story at www.storiesfrommainstreet.org

Image:

Drexel University lacrosse players

Mike Arrison

Back

Q: How many Americans play lacrosse?

A: 2.7 million in 2011

From 2001 to 2011, the number of Americans playing lacrosse doubled.

STATISTICS:

number of players: 10 men or 12 women

venue: field, 110 x 60 yards

game length: four 15-minute periods

equipment: ball, crosse, helmet with facemask or guard

scoring method: goal

Lacrosse has Native American origins. The Six Nations of the Iroquois played a game called “Baggataway” or “Tewaraathon,” and the Cherokee called their version “little brother of war.” When French settlers in Canada saw Native Americans play the game, the stick reminded them of a bishop’s staff (*la crosse*), giving the sport its European name.

www.museumonmainstreet.org

Surfing

Front

Find the surfboard at a Story Stop and describe the lessons you think we learn from sports.

Share your story at www.storiesfrommainstreet.org

Image:

Surfer in Guam

JR Manuel Imagery



Smithsonian Institution

MUSEUM on Main Street

Back

Q: What is the longest ride ever surfed on a wave?

A: 41.3 miles by Gary Saavedra of Panama in 2011

The art of surfing, called *heʻenalu* (or Heʻe nalu), meaning wave-sliding in the Hawaiian language, was first described in 1769 by explorer Joseph Banks during the first voyage of Captain James Cook.

STATISTICS:

number of players: individual

venue: ocean, river, or lake

game length: varied

equipment: surfboard; wetsuit optional

scoring method: competence of ride, level of difficulty, frequency of maneuvers

variations: kiteboarding, windsurfing, stand-up surfing; knee-boarding; bodyboarding

Surf culture permeated popular culture starting in the 1960s, appearing in the form of boardshorts, bikinis, and “woodie” station wagons.

The first official surf contest took place at Corona Del Mar, California, in 1928.

www.museumonmainstreet.org

Bicycling Card

Front

Find the bicycle at a Story Stop and tell us what new sports people play in your town.

Share your story at www.storiesfrommainstreet.org

Image

2005 Collegiate Cycling championships

Josh Gray

Back

Q: What is the highest speed achieved on a bicycle?

A: 167 miles per hour by Fred Rompelberg of the Netherlands in 1995

Cyclists were the highest-paid athletes in the U.S. until Babe Ruth joined the New York Yankees for the 1920 baseball season.

STATISTICS:

number of players: individual, team

venue: velodromes and highways

game length: varies



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equipment: bike, helmet, optional gloves

scoring method: time; order of finish

Fred Birchmore of Athens, Georgia, circled the globe by bicycle in 1935 at age 25. He pedaled about 25,000 miles and traveled most of the rest by boat, wearing out seven sets of tires along the way.

www.museumonmainstreet.org

Basketball Card

Front

Find the basketball at a Story Stop and tell us your favorite thing about sporting events.

Share your story at www.storiesfrommainstreet.org

Image:

High school basketball game

Harold Houser

Back

Q: How many times did James Naismith, the creator of the game, actually **play** basketball?

A: Two

In 1917, the Converse Rubber Company of Malden, Massachusetts, introduced its all-star basketball shoe.

STATISTICS:

number of players: 5

venue: court, 94 x 50 feet

game length: four 12-minute quarters

equipment: leather ball, basket

scoring method: goals, free throws

In 1891, Dr. James Naismith created basketball by nailing a peach basket to the balcony at each end of a gym in Springfield, Massachusetts. The first basketball game was played with a soccer ball! The height of a basket is still 10 feet — the height of the original balcony baskets.

www.museumonmainstreet.org